

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Raymond Ray Baloun was born on September 8, 1910, to Frank and Antonia Baloun, in Hyde County, South Dakota, on his parents homestead and is proud of his Bohemian heritage; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Ray married Alice America Ellenbecker on October 14, 1931, at Faulkton, South Dakota, and to this union 6 children were born: Burton, Darwin, Virginia, Donna Jean, Carol Ann, and Richard, who have in turn blessed them with 24 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild; and,

Whereas, Ray and Alice met while attending barn dances during the Lawrence Welk era and continued to dance and enjoy time with family and friends playing cards, and later traveling to Australia, New Zealand, London, France, Germany, and Hawaii with the Farmers Union tours; and,

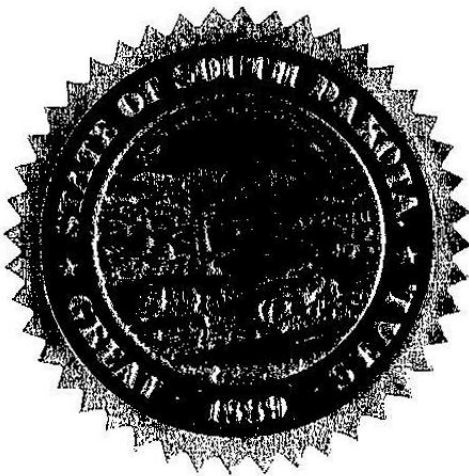
Whereas, Ray farmed in Hyde County his entire life and raised sheep, but his greatest love was raising Hereford cattle which he did until he was 97 years old. During the years his children were involved in 4-H and showing their Herefords, he enjoyed being the 4-H leader; and,

Whereas, Ray will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:


Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 8, 2010, as

RAY BALOUN DAY


in South Dakota, and I join his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State